

Bower Ashton Tree Station

(Concept and consultation by Forest of Avon Products Cooperative - September 2014)

Introduction

Forest of Avon Wood Products Coop is a *consortium cooperative* made up of member organisations and individuals who have a shared mission – **“to promote local timber and woodland crafts, so supporting sustainable woodland management in and around the Forest of Avon”**. We are a not for profit social enterprise delivering employment, training and learning in the tree and timber industries.

Forest of Avon Wood Products Cooperative members work in an area of land and buildings leased from Bristol City Council. This area is known as Bower Ashton Wood Yard and is home for our Coop. Our lease is up for renewal in 2016, and we wish to expand our workshop and yard space creating a Tree Station for Bristol (Bower Ashton Tree Station or BATS). We wish to gain a longer lease (possible ownership) over an increased area of Bower Ashton Depot.

Bower Ashton Wood Yard LEVITATE



Understanding the existing buildings 20th September 2015



Background

The Bower Ashton Depot includes the former farm buildings and Sawmill which helped manage Ashton Court Estate providing food and fuel for the Mansion residents living up

the hill. The buildings are Grade 2 listed and fall within the boundary of the heritage park. Part of our vision has already begun with repair and renovations to about half of the former farm courtyard and sawmill buildings with re-establishment of a working Wood Yard area. Unlike the Mansion these buildings are less well known situated within Bristol City in the Bower Ashton area of Greater Bedminster.

Today the Ashton Court Rangers have an office base and depot here alongside our coop workshops, offices and timber yard. We wish to continue working in partnership with Bristol City Council plus new future partners creating a Tree Station for Bristol.

The Tree Station Concept

This outline paper is part of a consultation process leading towards funding applications and linking with Bristol Green Capital legacy projects in 2015 and beyond. Our vision is evolving; a Levitate proposal prepared in 2005 remains relevant today. Part of this consultation will revisit these plans and adapt the vision creating a business plan for a Tree Station. Forest of Avon Products is working with Bristol City Council and other core partners making our growing vision a reality for tree and timber learning and enterprise.

Our concept is in development with Bristol City Council, Forest of Avon Products Members and other local stakeholders. In a nut shell we wish to create (training, apprenticeships, incubator workshops, office space, out door learning environment).

Stakeholder Consultation Results (from Open Day 4th June 2014)

Ideas for Bower Ashton Wood Yard	Stakeholder
Wild Play Area	Local resident
Round Wood Timber Framing Centre	Coop Member
New lease for Wood Yard	Coop Member
Sort the road out leading to Yard	Coop Member
Linking in with UWE incubator work shops	UWE representative
Linking in with Sculpture and Fine Art	UWE representative
Community Workshop book able by hour	Local residents
Link design/build to Architecture Students	Coop Member
Ashton Park School Link with Design Tech and Wood Workshop hire	School Governor
No more Noise	Local resident

Bower Ashton Wood Yard is developing into a Tree Station which will be:

- A learning environment for trees, timber and woodland management
- A collection point able to deal with whole tree conversion
- A processing point to add value to local timber

- A workshop space and sales outlet for finished products
- A space for new business start ups and apprenticeships
- A training and enterprise centre for Trees, Eco-system services, Woodland Management, Timber Processing woodland crafts and outdoor learning
- A public space with an outdoor class room, Wild Play area / Tree House
- What's your idea?

If you have any ideas for a Tree Station please contact:

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